AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An image processing apparatus having an image reading unit for reading an image per line from a sheet-like recording medium by applying a laser beam to the sheet-like recording medium and scanning the sheet-like recording medium with the laser beam in a main scanning direction, comprising:

a controller dedicated for controlling reading of the image from the sheet-like recording medium, said controller being operable in synchronism with a main scanning synchronizing signal supplied thereto.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller comprises means for performing shading correction on the image to be read in at least an effective reading period in a period of reading one line of image.

3. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller comprises means for detecting at least an error during [[in]] an ineffective reading period in a period of reading one line of image.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said error-detecting means includes means for measuring the period of said main scanning synchronizing signal.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an erasing unit for erasing image information carried on said sheet-like recording medium after said image is read therefrom;

said controller comprising means for detecting an erasing level for said erasing unit in an ineffective reading period in a period of reading one line of image.

6. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said erasing-level detecting means includes means for holding a maximum value of the level of an image signal from the line to be read.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said shading-correction performing means comprises:

means for outputting shading corrective data in synchronism with a reference clock signal;

means for converting the outputted shading corrective data from digital data into an analog corrective signal; and

means for adding an image signal representing the read image and said analog corrective signal to each other.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said shading-correction performing means comprises:

means for converting an image signal representing the read image from analog image data into digital image data;

means for reading shading corrective data in synchronism with a reference clock signal;

means for adding said digital image data and said shading corrective data into combined data; and

means for outputting the combined data.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a deflector for deflecting the laser beam to scan said sheet-like recording medium in the main scanning direction while the laser beam is being applied to said sheet-like recording medium, said deflector having a plurality of facets,

said shading-correction performing means performing shading correction depending on facet characteristics of each of said facets of the deflector.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller comprises means for generating a signal to manage displaying of the image in synchronism with said main scanning synchronizing signal.

11. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second controller, said second controller dedicated for controlling the feeding of the sheet-like recording medium in reciprocating fashion.

12. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 11, further wherein the second controller further controls an erasing unit for erasing the sheet-like recording medium after said reading.

13. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 12, further wherein said controller dedicated for controlling reading of the image further supplies said second controller with corrective signals for said erasing unit, said corrective signals correlated in amplitude with a highest scanned phosphorescent response to said laser beam.

14. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 11, further wherein the second controller further controls a cassette loading unit for loading cassettes of said sheet-like recording medium.

15. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second controller performing at least one of feeding the sheet-like recording medium, loading the sheet-like recording medium, and erasing the sheet-like recording medium.

16. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 15, wherein said second controller interoperates with the controller for controlling reading.

17. (New) The image processing apparatus of claim 16, wherein the second controller comprises a separate processor from the controller for controlling reading.